

--5. (Amended) An optical information recording medium having a multilayer structure comprising at least a lower protective layer, a phase-change type optical recording layer, an upper protective layer and a reflective layer, on a substrate, for overwrite recording by modulation of light intensity of at least two levels, so that a crystalline state is an unrecorded state, and an amorphous state is a recorded state, wherein the phasechange type optical recording layer has a composition of  $Zn_xGe_y(Sb_xTe_{1-x})_{1-y-z}$ , where  $0.65 \leq x \leq 0.85$ ,  $0.01 \leq y \leq 0.20$ , and  $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.15$  and comprises as the main component, an SbTe alloy of the SbTe eutectic composition or a composition including an excess amount of Sb over the SbTe eutectic composition.

9. (Amended) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 5, wherein to carry out an initialization operation by irradiating an energy beam for crystallization, after forming the phase-change type optical recording layer, the recording layer is locally melted and crystallized during resolidification.

10. (Amended) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 5, which is a recording medium whereby mark length modulation recording and erasing are carried out by modulating a laser power among at least 3 power levels wherein to form inter-mark portions, erasing power  $P_e$  capable of recrystallizing amorphous mark portions is applied, and to form mark portions having a length  $nT$  where  $T$  is a clock period and  $n$  is an integer of at least 2, writing power  $P_w$  and bias power  $P_b$  are applied in such a manner that when the time for applying writing power  $P_w$  is represented by  $\alpha_1T, \alpha_2T, \dots, \alpha_mT$ , and the time for applying bias power  $P_b$  is represented by  $\beta_1T, \beta_2T, \dots, \beta_mT$ , the laser application period is divided into  $m$  pulses in a sequence of  $\alpha_1T, \beta_1T, \alpha_2T, \beta_2T, \dots, \alpha_mT, \beta_mT$  to satisfy

when  $2 \leq j \leq m-1$ ,  $\alpha_j \leq \beta_j$ ;

$m=n-k$ , where  $k$  is an integer of  $0 \leq k \leq 2$ , provided that  $n_{\min}-k \geq 1$ , where  $n_{\min}$  is the minimum value of  $n$ ; and

$$\alpha_1 + \beta_1 + \dots + \alpha_m + \beta_m = n-j, \text{ where } j \text{ is a real number of } 0 \leq j \leq 2;$$

and under such conditions that  $P_w > P_e$ , and  $0 < P_b \leq 0.5P_e$ , provided that when  $i=m$ ,  $0 < P_b \leq P_e$ .

12. (Amended) An optical recording method, which comprises carrying out mark length modulation recording and erasing on the optical information recording medium as defined in Claim 5 by modulating a laser power among at least 3 power levels, wherein to form inter-mark portions, erasing power  $P_e$  capable of recrystallizing amorphous mark portions is applied, and to form mark portions having a length  $nT$  where  $T$  is a clock period and  $n$  is an integer of at least 2, writing power  $P_w$  and bias power  $P_b$  are applied in such a manner that when the time for applying writing power  $P_w$  is represented by  $\alpha_1 T, \alpha_2 T, \dots, \alpha_m T$ , and the time for applying bias power  $P_b$  is represented by  $\beta_1 T, \beta_2 T, \dots, \beta_m T$ , the laser application period is divided into  $m$  pulses in a sequence of  $\alpha_1 T, \beta_1 T, \alpha_2 T, \beta_2 T, \dots, \alpha_m T, \beta_m T$  to satisfy the following formulae:

$$\text{when } 2 \leq i \leq m-1, \alpha_i \leq \beta_i;$$

$m=n-k$ , where  $k$  is an integer of  $0 \leq k \leq 2$ , provided that  $n_{\min}-k \geq 1$ , where  $n_{\min}$  is the minimum value of  $n$ ; and

$$\alpha_1 + \beta_1 + \dots + \alpha_m + \beta_m = n-j, \text{ where } j \text{ is a real number of } 0 \leq j \leq 2;$$

and under such conditions that  $P_w > P_e$ , and  $0 < P_b \leq 0.5P_e$ , provided that when  $i=m$ ,  $0 < P_b \leq P_e$ .

Please add the following new claim.

--22. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 5, further comprising a protective coating layer made of an ultraviolet curable or thermosetting resin

made of a mixture of ZrS and SiO<sub>2</sub>.